

Education and CAREER CONNECTION

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WIRED-THIRD GENERATION GRANTEES ANNOUNCED

In mid-June, the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL), Employment and Training Administration (ETA) announced its third generation of grantees for the **Workforce Innovation in Regional Economic Development (WIRED) Initiative**. WIRED regions integrate economic and workforce development activities and demonstrate that talent development can drive economic transformation in regional economies across the United States.

Over a three year period, the thirteen third generation WIRED regions will receive a total of \$65 million dollars.

Assistant Secretary of Labor for ETA, Emily Stover DeRocco, said "These 13 regions join 26 others in transforming their regions into innovative, entrepreneurial economies, and preparing their workers with the education and skills necessary to be successful in the 21st century global marketplace." The WIRED Initiative includes a total of 39 regions across the United States.

Additional Links and Resources on the WIRED Initiative

- WIRED Web page
www.doleta.gov/wired/

- Fact Sheet on WIRED
www.doleta.gov/wired/files/WIRED_Fact_Sheet.pdf
- News Release on Third Generation of WIRED Grantees www.doleta.gov/wired/files/200706_pr_3rd_generation_regions.pdf

WEST VIRGINIA- PARENT GUIDE

West Virginia has developed a parent workbook entitled, **Coaching Your Student to Success**, which provides information, advice, and resources to parents on advising their children on the transition from high school to postsecondary education and training.

Over 20,000 copies of the workbook have been printed and distributed to parents. The workbook was developed by a team of elementary, middle, and high school parents.

Parents must attend state-wide parental training workshops to obtain a copy of the workbook.

More information on West Virginia's resources, trainings, and Web links for parents, students, and career development professionals can be found at: <https://www.workforcewv.org/> and <http://www.wvctcs.org/>.

COMMUNITY COLLEGE RESEARCH CENTER PODCASTS

The Community College Research Center (CCRC) at Teachers College, Columbia University has developed a new series of podcasts—**The Community College Equity Agenda**. These podcasts highlight important topics from one of CCRC's new books, *Defending the Community College Equity Agenda*. The podcasts are narrated by contributors to the book, and currently two podcasts are available for downloading.

Download CCRC podcasts at:
<http://feeds.feedburner.com/CCRCPodcast>

PARTNERSHIP FOR 21ST CENTURY SKILLS

The Partnership for 21st Century Skills is an advocacy organization focused on infusing 21st century skills into education by bringing the business community, education leaders, and policymakers together to define a powerful vision for 21st century education.

The Partnership has focused on identifying the gap between the knowledge and skills most students learn in school and those necessary to thrive in the 21st century workplace. The Partnership encourages schools, districts, and states to advocate for the infusion of 21st century skills into education; and provides tools and resources to help facilitate and drive change.

These skills include:

- Information and communication skills;
- Thinking and problem-solving;
- Interpersonal and self-direction skills;
- Global awareness;
- Financial, economic and business literacy; and
- Civic literacy.

The Partnership for 21st Century Skills focuses on:

- **Core Subjects** (English, reading or language arts, mathematics, science, foreign languages, civics, government, economics, arts, history, and geography);
- **21st Century Content** (global awareness, financial, economic, business and entrepreneurial literacy, civic literacy, and health and wellness awareness);
- **Learning and Thinking Skills** (critical thinking, problem solving, communication, creativity, innovation, collaboration, information and media literacy, and contextual learning);
- **Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Literacy** (ability to use technology to develop 21st century content knowledge and skills);
- **Life Skills** (leadership, ethics, accountability, adaptability, personal productivity, personal responsibility, people skills, self direction, and social responsibility); and
- **21st Century Assessments** (creating authentic 21st century assessments that measure core subjects, 21st century content, learning and thinking skills, ICT literacy, and life skills).

For more information on the Partnership for 21st Century Skills visit:
www.21stcenturyskills.org/

OECD EMPLOYMENT OUTLOOK 2007

The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) recently released a new podcast/MP3 audio recording on its *OECD Employment Outlook 2007*.

Raymond Torres, Head of the Division of Employment Analysis and Policy, OECD, discusses the release of the *Employment Outlook 2007*. He is interviewed for the release of the *OECD Employment Outlook 2007*. According to this new report, OECD should focus on improving labor regulations and social protection systems in order to help people adapt to changing market markets, rather than seeing globalization as a threat.

To access this interview:

<http://viphttp.yacast.net/viewontv/ocde/EmploymentOutlook-E.mp3>

FORD PARTNERSHIP FOR ADVANCED STUDIES (PAS)

Ford Partnership for Advanced Studies (Ford PAS) was developed by Ford Motor Company Fund, as part of its efforts to encourage high school students to pursue their education—and build successful careers—in business, engineering, and technology. Ford PAS is a partnership between Ford Motor Company Fund and Education Development Center, Inc.

The Ford PAS program is academically rigorous, interdisciplinary, and standards based. The program links classroom learning with the challenges and expectations students will face in postsecondary education and the workplace. The three core elements that Ford PAS is built on are:

- **Academic Knowledge** (math, science, social studies, and English);
- **Interpersonal and Human Performance Skills** (critical thinking, problem solving, teamwork, communication, personal management, and lifelong learning); and

- **Business Concepts** (finance, marketing, product quality, product development, the global economy, and global citizenship).

Ford PAS forges community-wide, cooperative efforts and innovative partnerships by joining local high schools, colleges and universities, and businesses together. The Ford PAS curriculum currently consists of five semester-long courses in design and product development, information systems, environmental sustainability, global economics, business planning, and marketing. Ford PAS courses are designed to be taught in sequence over two and a half years in grades 10, 11, and 12. Each course consists of three six-week modules and includes activities, a final project, and focuses on a coherent theme.

Ford PAS's numerous program resources for teachers and students to support effective teaching and learning include online teacher and student centers, teacher and student guides, professional development opportunities, and technical assistance on using the Ford PAS curriculum and framework. More information on the Ford PAS program, resources, and information on joining the program can be found at: <http://www.fordpas.org>

KNOWLEDGE WORKS FOUNDATION VIDEO SERIES: CAREER PATHWAYS IN OHIO

KnowledgeWorks Foundation has a series of video clips from the organization's various education and career development events and presentations.

One of these videos includes a ten minute clip entitled—*Career Pathways Explored; Stories from Ohio*. This video features Ohio employers, students, and workers who are trying to revitalize their

regional economies. It focuses on low-wage adult learners and recreating opportunities for them in the new knowledge economy. This video also highlights the importance of partnership formation between education, economic, and workforce development sectors to making an impact on regional economies.

Access this video and others from the KnowledgeWorks video homepage at: http://www.kwfdn.org/webcasts/video_center/#

UPCOMING CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

From High School to College and Career: Strengthening Secondary-Postsecondary Transitions Using Programs of Study Organized Around the Career Clusters Regional Institute #2

July 16-18, 2007

Washington, DC

For more information, please contact the NTSC at ntsc@dtihq.com

Workforce Innovations 2007: Beyond Boundaries

July 17-19, 2007

Kansas City, Missouri

Web site: www.workforceinnovations.org/

National Tech Prep Network and Career Pathways Annual Conference

October 10-13, 2007

Louisville, Kentucky

Web site: www.ntpn.info

**22nd Annual Careers Conference
Call for Proposals: Deadline August 30, 2007**

January 28-30, 2007

Madison, Wisconsin

Web site: www.cew.wisc.edu/careers

